

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-02 SS-15 NSC-05
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FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 1077
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DONHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JODDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANAA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMDEL TAIF IMMEDIATE 11

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 ALEXANDRIA 0777

DEPT FOR S/PRS ALSO PASS NSC FOR DR. BREZINSKI AND WHITE
HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL.

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SECSTATE VISIT SPOKESMAN'S BRIEFING IN ALEXANDRIA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN BRIEFING FOR CORRESPONDENTS
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PAGE 02 ALEXAN 00777 01 OF 03 030028Z

AT PRESS CENTER IN PALESTINE HOTEL, ALEXANDRIA EGYPT, AUGUST 2,
AT 3:00 P.M.

" THE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE BRIEFING AS YOU KNOW, IS GOING TO BE
TONIGHT IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE. I THOUGH I'D JUST GO OVER A FEW
FACTS

AND FIGURES WITH YOU AND TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS, IF I DON'T
ANSWER THEM. AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE MEETING LAST NIGHT LASTED FOR

LITTLE

BETTER THAN THREE HOURS. OF THAT, AN HOUR AND FORTYFIVE MINUTES WAS SPENT BY THE PRESIDENT AND MR. VANCE TOGETHER ALONE: THE REST OF IT TOGETHER. IN THE COURSE OF THEIR TALKS LAST NIGHT THEY HAD A COMPLETE DISCUSSION OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, DISCUSSED WAYS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS TOWARD A GENEVA CONFERENCE, AND COVERED MATTERS OF BOTH PROCEDURE AND SUBSTANCE THAT DISCUSSION WILL CONTINUE TONIGHT AS YOU ALL KNOW. I'M REALLY NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THE MATTERS OF ANY GREAT SPECIFICITY BUT I CAN SIMPLY SAY THAT THEY DID GO INTO BOTH SIDES OF THE PROBLEM. I THIS MORNING'S MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHICH LASTED A LITTLE BETTER THAN AN HOUR, AND WHICH WAS A HEAD TO HEAD MEETING, AND THE ONLY TWO PARTICIPANTS WERE MR. FAHMY AND MR VANCE. THEY COVERED AGAIN A GREAT NUMBER OF ITEMS, INCLUDING THE MIDDLE EASTERN SITUATION AND THE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS TOWARD THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. ALSO A NUMBER OF BILATERAL MATTERS. INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL DISCUSSION THEREAFTER WAS THE QUESTION OF AFRICA, AND EGYPT AND OUR CONCERNS IN THE AREA. I WOULD SAY THE SECRETARY FOUND THE MEETING LAST NIGHT TO HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY WARM, VERY FRUITFUL, VERY HELPFUL IN THE PROCESS WHICH HAS BROUGHT HIM TO THE MIDDLE EAST. AND THAT THE DISCUSSION THIS MORNING WITH MR. FAHMY WERE EQUALLY HELPFUL, VERY CORDIAL AND VERY FULL. I THINK AT THIS POINT I'LL TAKE QUESTIONS. THE BASIC AGENDA FOR THE REST OF THE DAY IS AS YOU HAVE IT, AND OUR DEPARTURE TOMMOROW REMAINS THE SAME.

Q. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WAS CARRYING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WITH HIM. DID HE PRESENT THEM TO THE PRESIDENT LAST NIGHT?

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A. THEY DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF POINTS, BOTH THOSE RAISED BY MR. SADAT AND SOME POINTS RAISED BY MR. VANCE. I AGAIN HOWEVER AM SIMPLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO ANY KIND OF DETAIL ON THEM.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY POINTS RAISED BY MR VANCE, ARE THEY AMERICAN PROPOSALS OR ARE YOU JUST SAYING THEY'RE NOT EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS?

A. I'M SAYING THAT, AS MR. VANCE SAID BEFORE HE CAME AND AS HE SAID ON OTHER OCCASIONS. WE HAVE SOME IDEAS AND THOSE IDEAS WERE DISCUSSED.

QM THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULE I THOUGHT WAS THAT HE WOULD TALK TO THE PRESIDENT IN GENERAL TERMS AND GET SPECIFIC WITH FAHMY THIS MORNING BUT YOUR DESCRIPTION OF THE MEETING OF AN HOUR WITH FAHMY DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THEY GOT TOO SPECIFIC.

A. WELL, THEY WERE INDEED SPECIFIC. I THINK THAT THE CORRECTIVE HERE WOULD BE SIMPLY THAT THE MEETING LAST NIGHT DID GO FURTHER THAN HAD ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED. I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED, AND I THINK WITH SOME MERIT, TO SUGGEST THAT WE MIGHT NOT BE QUITE AS BOUND BY WHAT SEEMS TO BE A SCHEDULE HERE FOR THIS PART OF THE TRIP AND FROM

NOW ON SINCE THERE IS TIME FOR THESE MEETINGS TO EXPAND ALL ALONG, AND

I THINK THAT WE CAN SAY THAT WE START OFF THINKING THE MEETINGS ARE GOING TO TAKE AN HOUR AND A HALF....(INAUDIBLE).

Q. DO YOU THINK VANCE WILL COME BACK AGAIN?

A. I'M NOT SAYING THAT HE IS GOING TO COME BACK HERE AT ALL. I'M SUGGESTING THAT, IF IT TURNED OUT THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO DO SO, THAT THAT WOULD BE A CONSIDERATION, BUT AT THIS POINT WE ARE JUST ON THE FIRST LEG OF WHAT IS GOING TO BE AN INTENSIVE TOUR AND I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY PREMATURE TO TALK ABOUT SUCH A POSSIBILITY.

Q. YOU'RE NOT RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE WOULD RETURN ON THIS TRIP?

A. I'M NOT TULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY. I AM. HOWEVER, SIMPLY WARNING THAT IT WOULD VERY EARLY TO SPECULATE THAT SUCH A THING WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. I JUST SIMPLY SAT THAT MR. VANCE SAYS THAT BASICALLY, IF IT WOULD SEEM TO BE USEFUL, THEN THAT POSSIBILITY WOULD COME INTO PLAY.

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Q. DID THEY CONCENTRATE OF PROCEDURAL MATTERSB I KNOW YOU SAID THAT THEY DISCUSSED BOTH, BUT

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ACTION PRS-01

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AMDEL TAIF IMMEDIATE 12

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 3 ALEXANDRIA 0777

DEPT FOR S/PRS ALSO PASS NSC FOR DR. BREZINSKI AND WHITE
HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL.

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE CYRUS R.)
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AT PRESS CENTER IN PALESTINE HOTEL, ALEXANDRIA EGYPT, AUGUST 2,
AT 3:00 P.M.

A. I DONJT THINK THAT I COULD BE VERY ACCURATE WITH YOU ON THAT.
THEY COVERED BOTH. AND THERE ARE, YOUN LINES THAT BLUR BETWEEN
THE TWO, SO I'M NOT SURE OF THE EXACT BREAKDOWN ON THE FULL DISCUSSIO
N

Q. HOW WILL YOU DETERMINE WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO COME
BACK, IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT HAS TO HAPPEN IN SUBSEQUENT STOPS
TO CONVINCE HIM THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO COME BACK HERE?

A. I AGAIN, DONT FIND THAT I CAN GO VERY FAR WITH YOU ON THAT. IT
WOULD SIMPLY BE, I SUPPOSE, A SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH ANY NUMBE
R

OF THINGS MIGHT HAPPEN. I DON'T HAVE THAT AND I DON'T THINK THAT I
REALLY IN ANY POSITION TO SPECULATE ON IT.

Q. BY PROCEDURAL MATTERS, DO YOU MEAN THE CONVENING OF THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE?

A. YES

Q. ARE THE EGYPTIAN AND AMERICAN IDEAS VER FAR APART OR SIMIALR
OR WHAT?

A. I THINK THINK THAT THAT'S A QUESTION TO ASK BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND
SECRETARY OF STATE TONIGHT AFTER THEY'VE COMPLETED THEIR
DISCUSSIONS.

Q. WELL, AT LEAT CAN YOU SAY WAS THERE A RESPOSE EVEN IF YOU
DONT WANT TO CHARACERIZE IT, TO...

A. NO, I REALLY THINK THAT THAT IS GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE
PRESS CONFERNCE TONIGHT. THERE WAS A FULL DISCUSSION.

Q. I MEAN , THERE WERE AMERICAN PROPOSALS; COULD YOU TELL US IF THEY
WERE SIMPLY TAKEN UNDER STRUDY OR IF MR. SADAT RESPONDED IN SOME
FASHION TO THOSE PROPOSALS OR MR. FAHMY DID DAY. WERE THEY STILL UNDE
R

CONSIDERATION WITHOUT A RESPONSE?

A. I FULLY UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION. I THINK THAT ALL I CAN SAY
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ON THIS IS THAT THERE WAS A THOUGHT DISCUSSION OF BOTH PROCEDURAL
AND SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS.

Q. ARE THERE ANY BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES?

A. I THINK THAT ONE OF THE POINTS OF THIS, AS MR. VANCE HAS POINTED
OUT, OF THIS TRIP IS NOT SO MUCH TO DISCUSS IN PUBLIC WHAT MAY BE
EACH STOP'S FINDINGS, BUT TO TRY TO, ON THIS TRIP, TO BOTH LEARN
WHAT THE DIFFERENCES ARE, HOW THEY MAY BE NARROWED, AND TO OFFER
SOME SUGGESTIONS. AND IT IS NOT VERY USEFUL TO TALK ABOUT HOW WE
STAND AT EACH STOP. BECAUSE THEIR TRIP IS PART OF A CONTINUING PROCESS
WHICH MAY WELL GO ON, AS THE SECRETARY SAID, BEYOND THIS TRIP.

Q. A MORE DISTANT SOURCE THAN YOURSELF SAID THAT THE SECRETARY WAS
ENTHUSIASTIC AFTER LAST NIGHT'S MEETING. IS THAT A FAIR
CHARACTERIZATION.

A. I THINK A FAIR CHARACTERIZATION WOULD BE THAT HE FOUND THE
MEETING TO BE VERY USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE AND I THINK THAT THE PHRASES
I

USED WERE NOT ENTIRELY LIGHTLY USED, WHILE THEY WENT DOWN THE USUAL
RITUAL. I'M NOT GOING TO USE THE WORD ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT I WILL SAY
THAT HE FOUND THEM TO BE PRODUCTIVE TALKS.

Q. IS THERE A POSSIBILITY THAT THE SECRETARY WILL COME BACK TO THE
REGION FOR A FURTHER SERIES OF MEETINGS BEFORE A GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A. I CAN'T SAY, I HAVE NOT HEARD THE POSSIBILITY OF A RETURN TRIP
DISCUSSED IN ANY KIND OF, YOU KNOW, "THIS IS A PROBABLE, THIS IS
A POSSIBLE". AND I WANT TO BE VERY CAREFUL, BECAUSE I DON'T WANT
TO STAND UP HERE AND SAY SOMETHING "THIS IS ABSOLUTELY RULED
OUT", BECAUSE THAT IS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY. THERE ARE SIMPLY NO
PLANS FOR SUCH A RETURN TRIP AT THIS TIME.

Q. TO EGYPT OR THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. NOW, NOT EVERYBODY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING. A RETURN
TRIP MEANS AFTER WE GO BACK TO WASHINGTON AND COME BACK AGAIN. THAT IS
THE QUESTION I'M BEING ASKED, I BELIEVE, WHICH IS A SEPARATE TRIP.
AND THAT IS NOT THE SAME QUESTION AS ASKING WHETHER IF IT
PROVED USEFUL, WE'D COME BACK HERE ON THIS SWING.

Q. (INAUDIBLE).... WITH MR. SADAT OR THIS MORNING WITH MR. FAHMY
THE POSSIBILITY OF RETURNING ON THIS TRIP TO CAIRO...

A. I THINK THAT THE QUESTION UNDOUBTEDLY AROSE. BUT I DON'T
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THINK IT WAS A DISCUSSION ALONG THE LINE OF THIS WILL HAPPEN,
YOU KNOW, DEFINITELY OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT.

Q. IS WHAT YOU'RE SAYING A POSSIBILITY THAT AFTER THE SECRETARY
HAS MET WITH THE ISRAELI OFFICIALS IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR HIM

TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT SADAT ON WHAT IS THE ISRAELI ATTITUDE
IS TO THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY WITH ARAB
LEADERS OR ARE YOU THINKING MORE OF A POSSIBLE SHUTTLE KIND
OF DIPLOMACY?

A. I DON'T THINK THAT I'M RAISING THE POSSIBILITY OF SHUTTLING
IF BY THAT YOU MEAN BACK AND FORTH BACK AND FORTH. AND
OBTAINING IF IT WERE TO COME UP I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD
COME UP IN THAT KIND OF CONTEXT, I MEAN OF A SHUTTLE.

1. INAUDIBLE

A. NO, I'M NOT GOING TO RULE OUT, YOU KNOW ANYTHING. THIS IS
THE FIRST DAY OF A VERY INTENSIVE TRIP, AND I WOULD SIMPLY
HAVE TO SAY THAT WE ARE SIMPLY SAYING THAT IF EVENTS PROVE
SOMETHING WILL BE USEFUL IT MIGHT HAPPEN.

Q. HAS THE SECRETARY OF STATE BEGUN TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT?

A. I THINK IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY THAT HE IS NEGOTIATING A
SETTLEMENT. WHAT WE HAVE SAID ALL ALONG IS THAT WE WILL HAVE
SOME SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE. WE ARE ALSO VERY INTERESTED, AS WE
HAVE BEEN IN SEEING PRECISELY WHAT THE PARTIES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT
WHAT THE MAJOR ISSUES ARE THAT ARE OUTSTANDING, WHERE THEY
OVERLAP, WHERE THEY'RE STILL SEPARATED, AND OFFER SOME POSSIBILITIES
OF YOUR OWN AS TO HOW WE THINK THEY MIGHT COME TOGETHER.

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UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 3 ALEXANDRIA 0777

DEPT FOR S/PRS ALSO PASS NSC FOR DR. BREZINSKI AND WHITE
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PAGE 02 ALEXAN 00777 03 OF 03 030049Z

AT PRESS CENTER IN PALESTINE HOTEL, ALEXANDRIA EGYPT, AUGUST 2,
AT 3:00 P.M.

Q. WELL, IF YOU HAD A PHRASE... IN FEBRUARY IT WAS FACT-SEEKER,
A FACT FINDER. WHAT IS HE NOW A SUGGESTION MAKER OR A NEGOTIATORS

A. I THINK WE ARE PRETTY WELL IN THE SAME PLACE WE WERE WHEN HE
HAD HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY, AND THE PHRASES HE USED FOR
THAT TRIP AT THAT TIME, ARE THE ONES I'LL BE GLAD TO STAY WITH
TODAY.

Q. HAVEN'T YOU BEGUN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING OR DO YOU STILL
SHY AWAY FROM THE IDEA THAT THE UNITED STATES IS BEGINNING TO TRY
TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT?

A. WHAT THE UNITED STATES IS DOING IS WHAT I'VE DESCRIBED WHICH
IS BOTH LISTENING AND OFFERING SUGGESTIONS.

Q. THE WORD SUGGESTIONS: I MEAN CAN WE SAY AMERICAN IDEAS OR
PROPOSALS IT IT'S ALL THE SAME?

A. YOU CAN SAY IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS. YOU CAN SAY ALMOST ANYTHING
WHAT I'M SAYING ARE IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS. AND I THINK I'M GOING
TO STAY WITH THAT ONE.Q. BASED UPON IDEAS DEDUCED FROM
THE MEETINGS HELD

BY PRESIDENT CARTER WITH THE MIDDLE EAST LEADERS?

A. VERY CLEARLY WHAT THE PRESIDENT LEARNED FROM MEETING WITH EVERY
ONE, PRESIDENT SASAT INCLUDED, INCLUDED IN THE IDEAS WE HAVE. I
MEAN THAT WAS THE POINT OF IT, TO GO BACK TO WHAT BARRY WAS ASKING
WHAT WE WERE DOING. A GOOD BIT OF THAT WAS, I FACT A FACT-
FINDING FOR THE PRESIDENT AND FOR THE SECRETARY.

Q. WHEN I ASKED SECRETARY VANCE ON FRIDAY HE USED THE WORD
PROPOSALS AND YOU BACK OFF OF IT ON TUESDAY.

A. IT'S SIMPLY BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE THAT ONE RIGHT IN FRONT OF
ME AND I'M PERFECTLY WILLING TO USE WHAT PHRASES HE USED AND
THAT'S PERFECTLY GOOD, IT HAS NO HIDDEN MEANING IN IT WHATSOEVER

Q. YOU SAY THAT HE HAS PUT FORWARD CERTAIN SUGGESTIONS AND THAT

THEY DEAL WITH PROCEDURE AND SUBSTANCE. WOULD YOU SAY THAT THEY
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CONSTITUTE A CLEAR CUT PLAN?

A. NO. I WOULD NOT. WE ARE NOT IMPOSING A PLAN WE ARE NOT BRING
ING A PACKAGE PLAN TO THE MIDDLE EAST. OUT POSITION REMAINS WHAT
IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN: THAT THE PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE THE ONES
WHO HAVE TO RESOLVE THIS AND IT HAS TO BE THEIR PLAN ULTIMATELY THAT
THEY AGREE ON. WE ARE NOT BRINGING A PLAN

Q. IS YOUR ONLY OBJECTION TO THE PLAN THAT IT IMPLIES A SORT OF
PRESSURE OT SOMETHING? THIS THE ONLY OBJECTION?

A. OE ONKY OBJECTION TO THE PLAN IS THAT WE ARE NOT A DIRECT
PARTY IN A REGION IN HICH THE PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE IS FOR
THE PARTIES TO COME TO A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF A LONG STANDING
SITUATIONN AND THAT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION, NOR DO WE WANT TO BE
IN A POSITION, TO IMPOSE OR TO BE IN A OF OFFERING A
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TO LIVE WITH SOMETHING.

Q. HOW MANY HOURS OF TALKS AND MEETINGS HAS HA HAD NOW
ALTOGETHER?

A. FOUR HOURS AND A HALF.

Q. AT THIS MORNING'S THING FAHMY WAS SUPPOSED TO EXTEND THROUH
LUNCHEON AND TAKE OVER HOUR HOURS.

A. WELL, IF YOU COUNT WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON RIGHT NOW... IT WAS
A VERY VERY RELAXED SOCIAL OCCASION IN WHICH A NUMBER OF PEOPLE
SAT IN, I WOULD HARDLY RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT
HAVE DISSCUSSED SOME MATTERS, BUT IT WAS A TABLE OF SIX OR EIGHT
PEOPLE, INCLUDING SOME WHO ARE NOT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE
FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS. MRS. VANCE, MRS. FAHMY AS I RECALL. I
THINK THAT THAT WAS FAR MORE OF A RELAXING PERIOD THAN IT
WAS A NEGOTIATING
PERIOD.

Q. WASN'T HE SUPPOSED TO HAVE THREE HOURS OF TALKS WITH FAHMY
TODAY?

A. NO, I NEVER UNDERSTOOD IT TO BE THREE HOURS OF TALKS, MEANING
HEAD TO HEAD AND INDEED THIS AFTERNOON, HIS IS NOT, IT IS FREE TIME,
STAFF TIME TIME TO DO WORK WHICH OBVIOUSLY GOES WITH THIS.
AS A MATTER OF FACT HE MAY BE COMING BACK NOW. I THINK HE'S DUE
ALOMOST ANY TIME. IF HE HASN'T ALREADY ARRIVED."

CHASE

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